

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 27 and 30-33 are presently active in this application, Claims 27 and 30 having been amended and Claims 28 and 29 canceled by the present amendment; Claims 34-53 having previously been withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention, and Claims 1-26 and 54-71 having previously been canceled.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 27-28 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as having been anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,103,578 to Uenishi et al. (“Uenishi”). However, Claims 29, 31 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a base claim, but otherwise were indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

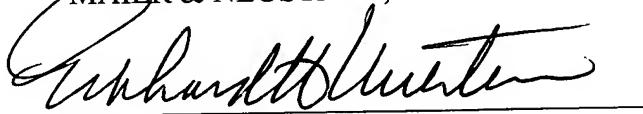
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 29, 31 and 32 include allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and in order to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in Claims 28 and 29 and Claims 28 and Claim 29 have been canceled. Claim 30 has been amended therefore to depend from Claim 27. Thus, Claim 27 including the limitations of allowable Claim 29 is now believed to be in condition for formal allowance, as well as Claims 30-33 which depend from amended Claim 27.

Consistent with the present amendment of Claim 27, the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION in the specification has been amended to reflect amended Claim 27. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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